

Office of Transition Initiatives

KENYA/EASTLEIGH

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Implemented through the USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI), the Kenya Transition Initiative (KTI) expanded its key objectives in May 2011 to include a counter extremism component in the Nairobi suburb of Eastleigh. Eastleigh has a large population of Somali immigrants with youth forming a large percentage of the population. Disenfranchisement of youth in the face of systemic marginalization, limited access to higher education, inadequate employment, crime, and corruption has weakened their resilience and increased their susceptibility to extremist ideologies. Coupled with the highly radicalized environment, youth in Eastleigh and its environs (known as Eastlands) remain exposed to extremist ideologies and vulnerable to recruitment by groups such as Al-Shabaab.

To counter this threat, the KTI-Eastleigh project (KTI-E) seeks to build moderation and foster identity and self-confidence in at-risk youth to enable them to reject the recruitment efforts of extremist groups. To achieve this objective, KTI-E works with locally-based organizations and the Eastleigh community at large to respond to risk factors through a three pronged approach:

- Build capacity for moderation and non-violence
- Empower local youth
- Livelihood support for youth

GRANTS SUMMARY

Since the initiation of the KTI-E component in July 2011, KTI has funded **40** activities totaling **\$1,042,794**. This year, a total of **33** activities totaling **\$873,513** were cleared.

Ongoing activities

██████████: As a part of its monitoring and evaluation (M&E) approach, KTI includes an activity assessment plan in all activities, customized to the requirements of the activity. The assessment can include a variety of qualitative methods and analyses. In the KTI-E component, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) are frequently used as an assessment tool, as they allow participants to give varied responses on significant issues. However, the use of FGDs has been challenged by a lack of qualified practitioners who can effectively document and capture the project's impacts in the target area, where language and cultural factors play an important role in access to beneficiaries. With the support of KTI-E, ██████████, a ██████████ organization with a presence in Kenya, has selected 15 youth from Eastlands to participate in an intensive training program on qualitative research. The training is a mix of classroom learning and practical sessions that give the trainees the opportunity to apply what they have learned. Some of the key components of the course include an overview of qualitative research, tool development, moderation techniques, transcribing, and analysis. To enable the trainees to effectively utilize the skills learned, the grant also has a mentorship component where, after the training, participants will intern at specific projects where they will observe experienced researchers at work, co-moderate with them, and ultimately take full control of the process with close supervision. It is hoped that this will produce a cadre of trained qualitative researchers who KTI can draw upon to assist in panel moderation and other pre and post assessment efforts in the future.

██████████: Communities in Eastlands have been subject to violence and crime carried out by marginalized youth who join gangs because they are disillusioned by the absence of economic opportunities and lack a strong sense of community identity. To encourage at-risk youth to avoid a life of crime, KTI-E is supporting ██████████, a local non-governmental organization, to hold community forums where youth discuss crime in the community and listen to testimonies of reformed ex-gang and militia members. These forums provide an opportunity for mentorship and peer engagement that aims to persuade youth to avoid falling

victim to gang recruitment. The examples of reformed gang members who have begun to earn an honest living inspire the youth to channel their energies positively and refrain from gang or terror-related activities.



Youth in Huruma engaged in discussions in their neighborhood

██████████: Many Eastleigh youth struggle to find identity as they grapple reconciling tradition, popular culture, and religion. As a result, they are especially vulnerable to manipulation by extremist forces and criminal elements. Capitalizing on a strong artistic tradition in the Somali culture, KTI-E is supporting ██████████ to mobilize 1000 at-risk youth to form sub-groups in which they will use art to discuss sensitive topics. The activity will culminate in a youth exchange forum and festival where participants can showcase their art. This activity will provide a platform for discussion on sensitive issues including radicalism and security concerns. Participants will break out into mini-groups that will develop action plans for conducting follow up discussions within the four localities (Majengo, Mlango Kubwa, and Eastleigh) that comprise KTI-E's target area.

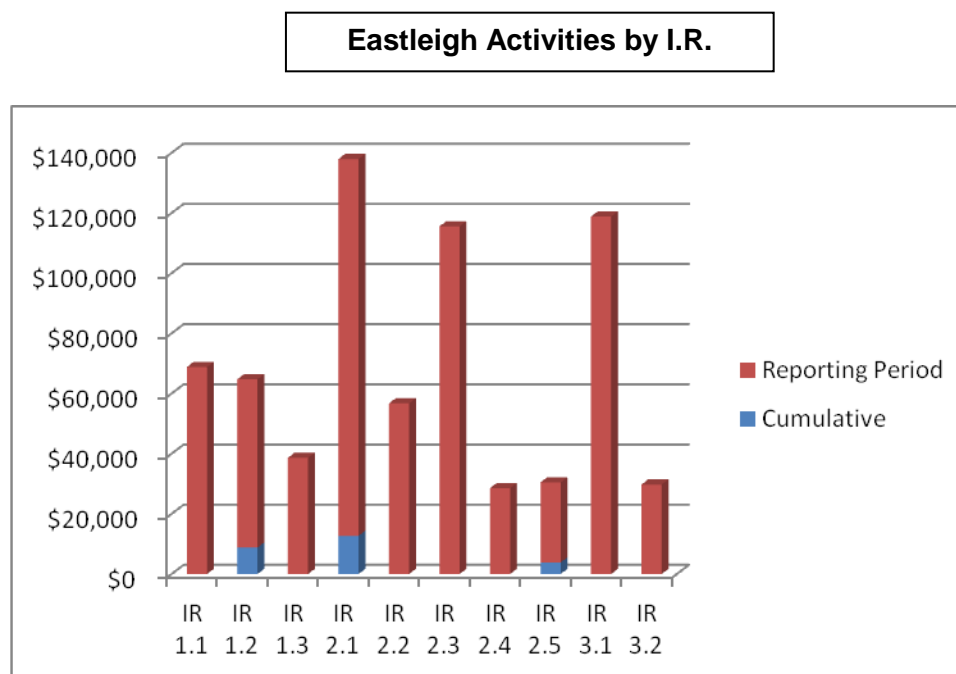
Pending activities

- **CHXEAS027 – Empowering Youth in Video and Photography Reporting, Grantee:** ██████████
– This activity will train 20 youth in photography and video recording, and empower them to use their skills to capture the success of KTI-E activities. It will employ the use of capturing video anecdotes of beneficiaries of KTI-E and will include closed and ongoing activities.
- **CHXEAS030 – AFTE POA! (Afterschool Program), Grantee:** ██████████ – This activity aims to move youth away from negative influences posed by extremist movements and provide them with a space where they can discuss sensitive issues with mentors who have shared experiences.
- **CHXEAS037: – Leadership Development, Grantee:** ██████████
██████████ – This activity will implement the work plans developed during the training-of-trainers (TOTs) in CHXEAS034.
- **CHXEAS040 – Conflict Mitigation Using Radio (Phase One), Grantee:** ██████████
██████████ – In coordination with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other partners, this activity will provide support to ██████████ to set up a humanitarian broadcast information service based in Dadaab refugee camp. The activity will facilitate the provision of current, relevant, and accurate information to refugees and host communities in Northeast Kenya to help mitigate xenophobia and anti-Somali sentiment, which have increased since the deployment of Kenyan troops into Somalia in October 2011.
- **CHXEAS046 – Enhancing Story Telling, DDGS** – This is a procurement activity where KTI will print four Somali folklore story books namely: Wiil Waal, Dhegdhee, Igal Shidad, Qayb Libaax. The books will be distributed in a grant whose focus is on storytelling. Five-hundred copies of each book will be distributed in 24 schools (“madrassas”) around Eastleigh.
- **CHXEAS048 – Restoring Hope and Culture through Storytelling in Eastleigh, Grantee:** ██████████
██████████ – This grant will train 30 youth in Eastleigh in storytelling and connect the trained story tellers with 24 schools (“madrassas”) in Eastleigh to encourage students to write their own stories about lessons that they have learned or they would

like to teach. The process of storytelling will help the students share morals and values. This activity will deliver the books that CHXEAS046 will print.

- **CHXEAS050 – Creating Youth-Government Liaisons, Grantee:** [REDACTED] – This grant will train 18 youth on being community liaisons and will facilitate conversations between the government and community on area-related grievances. The liaisons will also help in the amplification of KTI-E activities within the program's target area.
- **CHXEAS053 – Counseling Awareness, Grantee:** [REDACTED] – This follow-on to CHXEAS043 will assess the effectiveness of the [REDACTED] in the community and build its capacity to provide psychosocial support by assisting the Clinic to develop culturally relevant tools to deliver psycho-education and support groups. The activity will culminate in the development of a psychosocial support group that will provide intervention to traumatized youth.
- **CHXEAS054 – Role Model and Attitude Change Using Video and Film, Grantee:** [REDACTED] – This activity will identify 15 role models in Eastleigh and pair them with 30 members of the community who will make short films, take photographs, and write articles about their role models. These products will be distributed around Eastleigh using internet, television, and print media. This activity aims to give youth in the KTI-E target area positive community members to look up to and will inspire self-confidence and hope in their future.
- **CHXEAS056 – Eastleigh Roads Project Consultancy, STTA** – The consultant will inform the community about current road plans to enable vendors to move their businesses before they are demolished by the city council.
- **CHXEAS057 – Support to the [REDACTED] Office Grantee:** [REDACTED] – This activity aims to amplify the monthly baraza meetings held by the Chief. KTI-E intends to provide a PA system, tent, and chairs to help the Chief reach as many residents as possible. This will enable the community to engage in open dialogue with the government.
- **CHXEAS058 – Support to Barazas, Grantee: TBD** – This activity will use a community based organization to assist the Chief in planning the barazas. The grantee will help the Chief structure the barazas to maximize community interest and attendance. The grantee will also help the Chief advertise when and where the barazas will be held.
- **CHXEAS059 – My ID My Life, Grantee:** [REDACTED] – This proposed activity will liaise with relevant groups to assist in the process of providing youth with national identification cards. The activity will also assist foreign youth residing in Kenya to get alien cards based on the new refugee act. This activity will be supported by the government through the Ministry of Immigration.
- **CHXEAS061 – Illuminating Eastleigh for Security, Grantee: TBD** – This activity aims at putting two street lights up in areas of Eastleigh that have been plagued by crime. After the street lights have been set up, advocacy around security will be carried out through dialogues with opinion leaders in the community.
- **CHXEAS062 – Enabling School Management Committees to Empower Youth II, Grantee:** [REDACTED] – As a follow-on to CHXEAS014, this activity will train and sensitize school management committees and parents on peace and co-existence in an effort to empower them to take an active role in positively influencing Eastleigh youth and the broader community on ongoing peace monitoring/building, and helping youth shun extremism.
- **CHXEAS063 – Working with Positive Gangs, Grantee:** [REDACTED] – This activity will work with reformed ex-convicts/gang members to motivate youth to steer away from crime-related activities and engage in positive wealth creation activities.
- **CHXEAS064 – Somali Cultural Day, Grantee TBD** – This activity proposes to hold a concert in Nairobi that will include a Somali Idol component.
- **CHXEAS065 – Providing Linkages with Training and Financial Institutions, Grantee: TBD** – This activity will support a banking fair with a focus on youth and women. This fair will enable participants to build their self-confidence by finding out what type of financial support they can get from banks and how they can use the money to create a livelihood for themselves and break the cycle of dependency.
- **CHXEAS068 – Countering Violent Extremism through Communication and Research, Grantee:** [REDACTED] – This activity proposes to carry out research on national unity and co-existence and relay the findings.

The below graph illustrates KTI-E's annual and cumulative expenditures on activities by Intermediate Result (I.R.):



IR 1.1: Enhanced Advocacy Capacity and Sustained Positive Dialogue with GOK
IR 1.2: Improved Communication Channels for Youth to Discuss Sensitive Topics
IR 1.3: Improve Capacity & Structure of Moderate Voices Including Women and Religious Leaders
IR 2.1: Increased Recreational and Cultural Activities to Foster Identity
IR 2.2: Leadership Development
IR 2.3: Youth Organizations Network
IR 2.4: Counseling and Mentoring
IR 2.5: Youth Empowerment Center
IR 3.1: Improved Vocational and Professional Skills
IR 3.2: Improved Attitude for Meritocratic Work

PROGRAM EVALUATION

As the KTI-E component completed its first year, a one-year review covering both impact and processes was conducted. The review team was led by two Kenyan consultants with relevant backgrounds and experience, working in partnership with a USAID –Washington staff member. The findings were favorable overall, yielding some constructive recommendations that have been discussed and responded to by the KTI-E staff. Findings and recommendations included the need for KTI-E to engage the Eastleigh Advisory Committee (EAC) more effectively, gaps identified in the program's exit strategy, and a need to set and review yearly targets. The review team also highlighted the opportunities that KTI-E activities are providing for the target youth to socialize and network, and noted that the program is providing effective platforms for youth to interact around sensitive issues. Additionally, the review team noted that, with few exceptions, the grantees appreciate the use of in-kind grants as this mechanism has helped mitigate the potential for conflict among the groups' leaders and ensured their concentration on program activities. The review team commented that one of the most successful activities was the youth exchange implemented by the Ministry of Youth and Sports that brought together youth from Eastleigh and Nakuru. The draft report and findings were discussed in the most recent KTI-E rolling assessment, which ended in updating current work plans and a yellow light discussion.

The Eastleigh project development officers and M&E specialist also traveled to Chad with the OTI Deputy Country Representative to attend a USAID-sponsored Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) workshop. The team presented the highlights of the KTI-E program and interacted with staff from other USAID-supported CVE programs in Africa. It was an opportunity for the KTI-E staff attending to learn from other countries and present KTI-E's successes.

With the obligation of Partnership for Regional East Africa Counter-Terrorism (PRACT) funding to the task order, KTI-E like activities will also be rolled out to the coast. To initiate planning for this new element, KTI included the KTI-E team in the most recent rolling assessment for the Coast.

NEXT STEPS

- During the first quarter of next year, the EAC will be restructured in accordance with the recommendations of the one-year review.
- A grants manager for the KTI-E team will be hired to assist in the development and implementation of grants.
- It is anticipated that the next KTI-E rolling assessment will take place during the first quarter of next year.